

2020: The Year of Change and Growth

Completing my time at Kankakee Community College in December of 2022, taking a semester off from school, and graduating KCC in May 2023 with a humbling 2.48 GPA, lessons were learned. Lessons that I can be immensely grateful to have learned in comfort of my hometown rather than at a university on a larger scale and with higher stakes. My time at KCC was not one that I am terribly proud of, I had little to no campus involvement, my GPA and grades did not reflect my true potential and, I had too many distractions from the fast life that comes with a small-town mindset. I felt stuck. I wouldn't even be admitted into my major because my GPA was so low. With my degree in-hand, fresh off the stage, and full of celebration I made a vow that when I got to Illinois State University I would focus on academics solely. I would get a job, go to school, do homework, and have a friendship with my roommate. No parties, no extra-curricular activities, no new friends...no distractions. A vow that quickly broke after my first month on campus.

It is Fall semester of 2023, I am a transfer from a small town who came alone. I did have my roommate and another friend who lived in the same complex as me, that was enough for me, until it wasn't. I was put in contact with the IMPACT Movement, a Black Christian organization on campus where I began attending Women's meetings weekly. I enjoyed IMPACT but IMPACT wasn't enough. I then discovered the Black Student Union and began attending their monthly meetings as well as using my spare time to do my studying at the Multicultural Center. A place where Black students often come to congregate, where students feel comfortable, and at home. The MCC slowly became my own home. BSU students slowly noticed my consistent